

SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS ... **SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES**

"With God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

Fall 2008

Vol. 13, No. 1

P.O. Box 650, Wilton, CA 95693-0650

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN!

September 2 was the opening date for the new school year here at Small Cloud. Student enrollment included seventeen students in grades Pre-K through twelve.

When school began, students harvested produce from the gardens they had planted before school let out in June. Just look at the beautiful red and yellow peppers that grew in the garden shared by Chris (pictured above) and Andy!



North Star Ranch, a miniature horse farm here in Wilton, was the location of our first field trip this year. There the students were treated to a demonstration of miniature horse training. The students also learned about horse care and handling, as well as how to diminish the ranch fly population. Ranching is a real science!

Parent Night that same evening featured a DVD presentation on methamphetamines. Parents, urged to come to the meeting, gave their comments about the program. Based on that feedback, the decision was made to share the presentation with the students in grades 7-12 on Wednesday, October 29. Parents were encouraged to discuss this topic with their children after the viewing.

In October we were blessed with a new face at Small Cloud. Miss Natalia Schwindt, who is visiting here in the United States for a few months, requested that she be allowed to help out with the students at the school and thereby improve her English. She has been a great help, and the kids just love her!

We made a small renovation at Small

Cloud this year, but it makes a big difference! A new door now allows students direct access to the playground instead of having to go out the front door and around the building. The upper part of this attractive door has small windows in it and makes the teachers' job of managing the playground much easier.

Thursday, October 30, was our traditional Warrior Night, a substitute for the ungodly holiday of Halloween. The evening featured crafts, games, food, and fun for the students. In the pictures to the right you can see Mariana showing off her "pudding face" and Alyssa and Stephen making banana pops.

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, held from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, was well attended again this year. Our boys, dressed in dark pants and white shirts, and our girls, dressed in dark skirts and white blouses, acted very professionally as they performed their duties as waiters and waitresses at this sit-down dinner. One guest even compared the service to that of a fine restaurant. Needless to say, we are very proud of our students' performance. We were blessed financially with \$800 in donations, yielding a \$440 profit.

This quarter four students made the honor roll—Mariana Cardenas, Kellie Hunter, Davey Petrovich, and Megan Petrovich. These students were treated to dinner at a Chinese restaurant. (Honor roll students choose where they would like to eat.) Mrs. Seely, Mrs. Nelson, and Miss Schwindt accompanied the students.

We are very thankful for the opportu-

nity God has given us to educate children, not only for this life, but also for eternity. Parents, the devil wants your children. He wants to educate them, and he uses many tools—television, internet, video games, etc. Do the values your children learn at school coincide with the values you attempt to teach

in your home? Children are a precious heritage of the Lord. How important that their minds be molded by the proper influences!

It is quite obvious that Christianity is under attack. Only God knows how much longer we will be able to educate our children in the ways of the Lord without harassment from authorities. We ask that you continue to pray for Small Cloud. ■



QUARTERLY HONOR ROLL DINNER
Front (L to R): Mariana, Davey, and Megan.
Back: Kellie, Miss Schwindt, Mrs. Seely,
and Mrs. Nelson.

OUR FIRST FIELD TRIP

(student observations)

by Andy Petrovich, age 14:

On October 21, 2008, my school went on a field trip to North Star Ranch. At the ranch, a guide took us on a tour. I saw very big Friesian horses. I saw miniature horses. I got to pet the horses, too. I mostly liked the miniature horses.

The guide showed us how they [farmhands] take care of the horses. I got to smell alfalfa, too. I didn't like it.

At the end of the tour, I got to sit on a John Deere tractor. We each got a plastic toy horse and a tootsie roll. We all played and had a fun time at the ranch. Now we are back at school, and I am stuck writing this!



Andy Petrovich met some larger equine residents at the ranch. Here he touches a beautiful Friesian horse (photo by Kellie Hunter).

by Davey Petrovich, age 8:

I went to a ranch to see horses. We saw miniature horses. One of the horses is blind. We got toy horses from Barbara [the ranch owner].

by Mariana Cardenas, age 11:

We went to North Star Ranch. We got to see cute horses. Some were big, and some were small. We also got to see birds and a dog and a rabbit. I learned that you should be very gentle with horses. The miniature horses are very active and fun to look at. I had a great time seeing and learning about horses.

by Chris Lamb, age 14:

The field trip was very informative. I really liked Omar (the Friesian) because he was so big. I also liked the other two black horses. I learned how she [Barbara] trained all of her mini-horses. I really liked how she bonded with all of her horses.

To keep the farm in shape, they [the farmhands] have to clean the stalls in the morning and at night. They also have these cool bugs that they spread out on the horses' poop. The bugs find fly larva and eat them. This helps keep flies away from the ranch.

It was very interesting to see how she feeds all her horses different things. The miniature horses get fed grass hay, while the Friesians eat alfalfa. I thought that was cool.

I think having a farm is hard work, yet very fun at the same time.

TRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY

by Jantée Webster, age 17

What does responsibility mean? It could mean having self-discipline. It could mean being mature. It could mean taking care of your chores and other things you are responsible for. To me, responsibility means all of these definitions. For someone to be responsible, it takes maturity. And a task that is not easy to do requires a good amount of self-discipline to get it done.

There is a time when we all have to grow up and face life. There is a time to play and a time not to play. Everyone in this world should know when to grow up and be serious. There are still people in this world who haven't learned that yet. Unfortunately, I'm lacking some of that self-discipline, but I'm trying.

Another important thing is trust. What does trust mean? Trust could mean to believe in something or someone. It could also mean to have faith in something or someone. To me, trust means both of these. When you trust people, you're saying you believe that they can accomplish a task you give them.

To have faith in someone or something means you are trusting them with something. Trusting someone means you have plenty of respect for that person and that you believe they can do the assignment or task they are required to do. You are giving them the respect they have earned; but that trust, unfortunately, can be easily taken away by doing something untrustworthy.

In conclusion, responsibility and trust are two important qualities we should all try to learn. From now on, I'm going to try my best to be a responsible person and to learn how important it is when someone trusts me with a certain task.



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PRACTICAL EDUCATION

Small Cloud is a unique school. Here the students receive education in practical, as well as academic, subjects. The older students help out with the younger ones, reading to them, tying shoe laces, wiping runny noses, etc. To the right you will see Kellie learning to change Maya's diaper.



WHY THE NAME “SMALL CLOUD”?



“And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.” - 1 Kings 18:41-45.

It was not because of any outward evidence that the showers were about to fall, that Elijah could so confidently bid Ahab prepare for rain. The prophet saw no clouds in the heavens; he heard no thunder. He simply spoke the word that the Spirit of the Lord had moved him to speak in response to his own strong faith. Throughout the day he had unflinchingly performed the will of God and had revealed his implicit confidence in the prophecies of God’s word; and now, having done all that was in his power to do, he knew that Heaven would freely bestow the blessings foretold. The same God who had sent the drought had promised an abundance of rain as the reward of rightdoing;

and now Elijah waited for the promised outpouring. In an attitude of humility, ‘his face between his knees,’ he interceded with God in behalf of penitent Israel.

“Again and again Elijah sent his servant to a point overlooking the Mediterranean, to learn whether there were any visible token that God had heard his prayer. Each time the servant returned with the word, ‘There is nothing.’ The prophet did not become impatient or lose faith, but continued his earnest pleading. Six times the servant returned with the word that there was no sign of rain in the brassy heavens. Undaunted, Elijah sent him forth once more; and this time the servant returned with the word, ‘Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand.’

“This was enough. Elijah did not wait for the heavens to gather blackness. In that **small cloud** he beheld by faith an abundance of rain; and he acted in harmony with his faith, sending his servant quickly to Ahab with the message, ‘Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.’” - Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), pp. 155-156.

In 1995 Sandy Schendel and Margie Holmstroem felt called by God to work for Him in the field of education. They were both in their early twenties, unmarried, and without financial resources. At the time they were living in the home of Mr. Albert Schendel, Sandy’s grandfather, while caring for his ailing wife (Sandy’s grandmother).

Stepping out in faith, they told Mr. Schendel they planned to start a Christian school. Where, he asked, did they plan to open it?

“We don’t know yet,” the

young women replied.

After asking this question several times, Mr. Schendel extended an offer: “Why don’t you start it here?”

Ah! Here Sandy and Margie detected God’s opening providence. They accepted the offer and decided upon an opening date for the school: January 22, 1996. But what should they name it?

Lying on a trampoline in the backyard, looking up at the clouds in the sky, Sandy was impressed with the name “Small Cloud.” She also thought of the cloud that would denote Christ’s second coming. Then the faith of Elijah came to mind. During a discussion, Sandy and Margie concluded that indeed “Small Cloud” should be the name of the school.

There was much to be done to prepare the classroom, which would consist of one-half of a barn/storage building. Items accumulated over many years had to be relocated—especially clocks, since Mr. Schendel was a watchmaker/clock repairman. Donations of labor and materials transformed the area into a classroom, complete with used carpeting, some sheetrock, a few rustic cabinets, fluorescent lighting, and a wood-burning stove. Desks were purchased from second-hand stores, and textbooks were ordered. With their mothers, Sandy and Margie knelt down in the classroom and dedicated Small Cloud to God.

Small Cloud Christian School began its ministry with six students. In the thirteen years since then, we have seen God work many miracles to provide for Small Cloud’s needs. His love has touched many lives. May He water the seeds of truth sown in the hearts of His precious little ones is our prayer.

APOLOGIES

We apologize for the tardiness of “Small Cloud Chronicles” during the past year. Because of health issues, Mrs. Gretchen Schendel, who is in charge of setting up the newsletters, has been unable to do the work in a timely fashion. She is doing better now and plans to catch up soon.

The newsletter always goes through several editings before it is sent out. The last issue (Summer 2008) was no exception. We had a lot of trouble trying to get clear pictures for that issue; and we are so thankful for the services of Michael Mitov, a kind friend in Canada, who has been helping us to clarify blurry pictures. Because of a mixup, however, a preliminary copy of the newsletter was accidentally sent out by e-mail. We apologize for sending out a partially-edited version. The newsletters that were mailed out in hard copy were the correct ones.

On page three of the summer issue there is an article entitled “Box Tops for Education.” One important part that was left out of the e-mail copies is that one can go online to find a list of products containing these coupons. They are not found just on General Mills products! Go to www.boxtops4education.com and click on “clip.” You will then be able to download the complete list.

NEW PETS AT SMALL CLOUD

Meet Wilbur the hog, who joined Peewee the sow. The Nelsons acquired Wilbur to keep Peewee company so she wouldn't be lonely. However, it took a bit of time and a few nasty fights before the two pigs determined who was boss. By the way, Wilbur won, and Peewee has become the submissive pig. We are happy to say that they are tolerating each other well now, even sleeping together in the hay at night. Both look forward to the scraps provided by the Nelson household and the SCCS kitchen.



Little Mouse and Blossom are two new, much-loved kitties. Their owners moved away, leaving the kitties to fend for themselves. A kind-hearted neighbor took them in, then offered them to Mrs. Nelson. Of course, animal lover Mrs. Nelson could not say "no" to the offer, and Little Mouse and Blossom joined the other pets at Small Cloud. Above you will see Kellie holding Little Mouse and Blossom.



Our goat population has been reduced from four to two. Tornado and Rascal were placed in a good home because they kept destroying the fence around their enclosure with their horns. (Our other two goats have been dehorned.) Betsy the cow is still being pastured at a friend's home, where she is in the company of others of her kind. She is due to become a mommy cow in a few months; we'll keep you posted.

THE PARENTING CORNER

In the cultivation of the soil the thoughtful worker will find that treasures little dreamed of are opening up before him. No one can succeed in agriculture or gardening without attention to the laws involved. The special needs of every variety of plant must be studied. Different varieties require different soil and cultivation, and compliance with the laws governing each is the condition of success. The attention required in transplanting, that not even a root fiber shall be crowded or misplaced, the care of the young plants, the pruning and watering, the shielding from frost at night and sun by day, keeping out weeds, disease, and insect pests, the training and arranging, not only teach important lessons concerning the development of character, but the work itself is a means of development. In cultivating carefulness, patience, attention to detail, obedience to law, it imparts a most essential training. The constant contact with the mystery of life and the loveliness of nature, as well as the tenderness called forth in ministering to these beautiful objects of God's creation, tends to quicken the mind and refine and elevate the character; and the lessons taught prepare the worker to deal more successfully with other minds." - Ellen G. White, *Education* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), pp. 111-112



EXERCISE FOR HEALTH!



Chris exhibits his jumping ability



Chris and Andy running laps

Small Cloud Christian School is a nonprofit organization dedicated to leading children of every race, color, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and creed to the knowledge of the living God.